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2005 California Courts Legislative Summary Highlights Over 100 New Laws

San Francisco—The 2005 *California Courts Legislative Summary* highlights more than 100 bills that affect the courts or are of interest to the court community, which were signed into law during the first year of the 2005–2006 Legislative Session.

Leading the list is Assembly Bill 145, the historic Uniform Civil Fees and Standard Fee Schedule Act, which makes civil court filing fees uniform and predictable in all 58 counties of California.

Other areas affected by new laws include adoptions, child abuse, DUI, domestic violence, small claims, and the state's youth authority.

Four examples of legislation with significant impacts that take effect January 1, 2006, are:

- Assembly Bill 1459/Senate Bill 422, Small Claims Court—increases small claims jurisdiction from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for actions brought by natural persons.
- Senate Bill 218, Juvenile Dependency—authorizes the court to designate certain caretakers as prospective adoptive parents in cases involving termination of parental rights.
- Senate Bill 720, Protective Orders—requires the court to transmit data related to domestic violence protective orders for entry into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System within one business day.

Prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the 2005 Summary briefly describes each bill and indicates whether it is of primary interest to trial courts or appellate courts. The summary may be found online at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/cr-legis.htm. For more information on specific bills, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html.